

**(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau**



(43) International Publication Date
28 November 2002 (28.11.2002)

(10) International Publication Number
WO 02/095382 A1

PCT

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: G01N 25/72

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(21) International Application Number: PCT/US02/16194

(22) International Filing Date: 21 May 2002 (21.05.2002)

(81) **Designated States (national):** AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) **Publication Language:** English

(30) Priority Data:
60/292,421 21 May 2001 (21.05.2001) US

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(84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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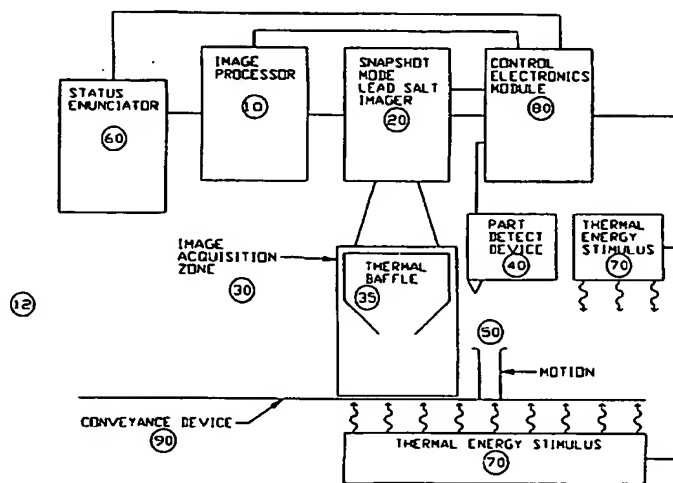
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Published:

— with international search report

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: AN APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR PROVIDING SNAPSHOT ACTION THERMAL INFRARED IMAGING WITHIN AUTOMATED PROCESS CONTROL ARTICLE INSPECTION APPLICATIONS



(57) Abstract: This application relates to an apparatus and method for providing snapshot action thermal infrared imaging within automated process control article inspection applications. More specifically, it pertains to the use of snapshot mode lead salt area-array imaging sensors (20) as the imaging front-end in high-speed machine vision inspection systems (12). The relatively low-cost, good measurement sensitivity at temperatures consistent with thermo-electric cooling means, and the ability to be operated in snapshot mode enables lead salt-based image acquisition sensors (20) to be used in a variety of automated process control and article inspection applications.

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